

PK Box 1 / J1

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

Answered

9, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.

1st June 1894

in re,

Druidical Remains. Jersey

Dear Sir.

I am desired by the
Committee of this Society to
forward to you the enclosed
cutting from the "Jersey Weekly
Press" of May 26th in the hope
that the subject may interest
you.

I remain, Dear Sir
Yours faithfully

Thackeray Furness

Secretary

To
Maj. Gen. Pitt-Rivers

PK Box 1 / J1

THE CORBIERE CAVES.

(From the Jersey Times of Wednesday.)

Some time ago it was reported that series of extensive caves had been discovered in proximity to the Corbiere Lighthouse. Their existence had, as a matter of fact, been known for some years, but it is only recently they have been rendered accessible to visitors. To-morrow, indeed, for practically the first time, will they be thrown open to the public. That being so, a few words about these interesting natural curiosities will doubtless be of interest to our readers.

The majestic grandeur of the rugged cliffs and billowy ocean at this picturesque spot... The largest caves are added to the locality. The largest caves are really two in number, one being known as "The Smugglers" and the other as "The Pirates" - the latter being by far the largest. They nestle in pretty Rosiere Bay, which lies to the west of the Quarry powder magazine and are approached from the roadway which leads to the Lighthouse by a winding path down the side of the cliff. One may notice on the way the ruins of what was once a thriving public-house, and, suggestively enough, it is but a few steps further to the Smugglers' Cave. The entrance to the latter was formerly guarded by a huge boulder of rock, under which the smugglers had to crawl to deposit their ill-gotten barrels of spirits. It was, on dit, so used but a few years since. The bottom of the cave has now been rendered even and level with smaller stones, &c. The massive boulders which strew the little Bay are said to be the remains of a pier which formerly existed at that spot. This was in the times that the granite which is so plentiful on all sides round about was quarried, and here flat-bottomed vessels would approach to receive their burdens for conveyance to England. That the Bay itself possesses a little now... The chief feature is the and can only be approached by scrambling over huge rocks. What must have been a difficult task in the past has now been rendered comparatively easy, for a rough path has been made which leads direct to the Cave. Steps have been cut in the solid granite, and a railing will probably shortly be added for the better protection of visitors. The Cave, which is accessible at almost all states of the tide, could formerly only be reached in boats, for it generally contained some four to six feet of water at the entrance, and a canal in the centre. Mr. Geo. Misson, of the Corbiere Inn, happened to light on it one day, and determined to make a thorough inspection. Forming a rude raft of wood, he, with a mariner's reckless love of discovery, penetrated into the interior, and was surprised at its dimensions and loftiness. Having purchased the land above and round Rosiere Bay some 12 months back, he enterprisingly determined to make the Caves an additional attraction to the neighbourhood - which they must undoubtedly prove to be. To revert to the Cave, we may say its entrance is 12 or 14 feet high, but it extends to some 20 feet, while its total length is probably 200 feet. The bottom has now been filled up with stones and gravel, and so is comparatively level, thus simplifying leisurely inspection of this wonderful freak of Nature. By the aid of artificial light, one is enabled to obtain at least a faint idea of the extent of the Cave, which is truly marvellous. A large pillar of varied hues is a special feature of the interior. There are yards upon yards of rock and earth overhead, though the whole is crowned with nothing less than a patch of potatoes. Rumour has it that the Cave was formerly the dwelling place of Jersey pirates who on dark and stormy nights would sail there from and lighting beacon fires, lure to destruction vessels passing the island. That many a craft had thus become the wrecker's prey is indisputable. What tales the secreted

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but when he told him that he was praying for God to keep him from temptation the master did not upbraid him. In less than three years he was earning £250 a year. Soon after, having saved sufficient money, he went to a college and studied theology, medicine, etc., and after a year of hard work he offered himself to the